

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 132

By Cooper J

A RESOLUTION to honor Kayla McCullough on being named a Distinguished Finalist and State Honoree for the 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the members of this General Assembly to pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Kayla McCullough, an esteemed resident of Gruetli Laager and a sixth grade student at Swiss Memorial Elementary School, has been named Tennessee's top middle level student volunteer in the Eighth Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program that recognizes young people for outstanding community service; and

WHEREAS, for her exemplary volunteer service, Kayla was recognized as a 2003 Distinguished Finalist and State Honoree for the Prudential Spirit Award, which is presented by Prudential Financial, Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, Kayla McCullough earned this prestigious award by initiating a food and toiletries collection drive for the Ronald McDonald House; and

WHEREAS, Kayla decided to start the campaign after the death of her 19 month-old brother, Brady; she and her family had stayed at the Ronald McDonald House during his illness, and, as she says, "I have learned that if I help others, I can learn to cope with the loss of my brother", and

WHEREAS, through Kayla's initiative, schools, churches, and local senior groups collected canned food, soaps, lotions, and other toiletries; in addition, Kayla has collected 26 gallons of soda can pop-tabs, which are helping to pay for children's chemotherapy treatments; and

WHEREAS, as a State Honoree, Kayla will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in May, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, the prosperity of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Kayla McCullough, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kayla McCullough epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and has taken her rightful place among the many worthy citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname, "The Volunteer State"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Kayla McCullough on being named a Distinguished Finalist and State Honoree for the 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognize her outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit as the State's top middle level student volunteer, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.